



Farm Facts



Debra K. Kenerson
Director



cooperating with
Tennessee
Department
of Agriculture

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/tn> Phone 1-800-626-0987

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2005 Burley, Wheat Acreage Down Significantly

Tennessee producers intend to plant more corn, cotton, and soybeans and less sorghum and burley tobacco, based on the March Agricultural Survey conducted by Tennessee Agricultural Statistics. Winter wheat seeded last fall is also expected to be down dramatically from a year earlier. Dark-type tobacco acreage is expected to remain steady, while hay acres are projected to decline. "The survey results show only what producers intend to do as of March 1," stated State Director Debra Kenerson, "Changes in prices, production costs, and weather conditions will be major factors in determining what farmers actually choose to produce this year."

Prospective **soybean** acreage, at 1.22 million acres, is up slightly from a year ago and the highest in six years. Planted acreage of **corn** is forecast at 690,000 acres, 1 percent above 2004. The 2005 **sorghum** acreage is forecast at 15,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from the previous year and the lowest since records began being kept in 1929. Tennessee's **cotton** acreage is forecast at 570,000 acres, up 8 percent from 2004 and the highest since 2001. **Winter wheat** seedings for the 2005 season totaled 270,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from December and 32 percent less than last year. This is the lowest acreage in over twenty-five years when only 260,000 acres were sown for the 1978 crop. **Hay** producers intend to harvest an estimated 1.92 million acres, 15,000 acres less than in 2004.

forecast at 19,000 acres, down 24 percent from the previous year and the lowest level since 1922. Other tobacco types grown in Tennessee all show no change in potential acreage for the 2005 planting season: Type 22 **Eastern dark-fired** acreage is forecast at 5,300 acres; Type 23 **Western dark-fired**, is forecast at 420 acres; and Type 35 **dark air-cured**, is forecast at 540 acres.

Asian Soybean Rust: The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts the March Agricultural Survey in all states each year. Randomly selected farmers across the United States were asked what they intend to plant during the upcoming season for a number of crops, including soybeans. Due to the discovery of Asian soybean rust in the United States and the heightened speculation of how growers would react to the fast spreading, yield reducing disease, questions were included in the March Agricultural Survey to measure farmer awareness of Asian soybean rust and how its discovery has effected their planting decisions for the 2005 crop. Results of the Asian Soybean Rust questions for **Tennessee** are as follows:

- One-fourth of the State's farmers had seen, read, or heard information about the disease.
- Eighty-five percent of Tennessee farms reporting soybean intentions had seen, read, or heard about the disease.
- Ninety-four percent of the State's soybean farmers replied that Asian Rust was not a factor in their planting intentions.
- Of the six percent of producers who indicated Asian soybean rust was a factor in their planting intentions, 66 percent plan to decrease their intended acreage, while only 1 percent increased their intentions.

U.S. Highlights

Corn planted area for all purposes is estimated at 81.4 million acres, up 1 percent from 2004 and 4 percent above 2003. **Soybean** producers intend to plant 73.9 million acres in 2005, down 2 percent from last year's record high. **All wheat** planted area is expected to total 58.6 million acres in 2005, down 2 percent from 2004. **All cotton** plantings for 2005 are expected to total 13.8 million acres, 1 percent above last year.

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The State's **burley** tobacco area for harvest in 2005 is

Planted Acreage, 2003-2005, Tennessee and United States

Crop	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2005/2004	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2005/2004
	Tennessee				United States			
	1,000 Acres		Percent		1,000 Acres		Percent	
Corn	710	680	690	101	78,603	80,930	81,413	101
Sorghum	45	20	15	75	9,420	7,486	7,400	99
Winter wheat	430	400	270	68	45,384	43,350	41,613	96
Soybeans	1,150	1,210	1,220	101	73,404	75,208	73,910	98
Cotton, all	560	530	570	108	13,479.6	13,658.6	13,815.0	101
Tobacco, all ²	31.14	31.26	25.26	81	411.15	409.06	319.86	78
E. Dark-fired (22)	5.20	5.30	5.30	100	7.80	8.00	8.30	104
W. Dark-fired (23)	0.40	0.42	0.42	100	2.90	2.92	3.02	103
Burley (31)	25.00	25.00	19.00	76	152.30	154.65	108.30	70
One-sucker (35)	0.54	0.54	0.54	100	2.84	2.84	2.84	100
Hay ²	2,030	1,935	1,920	99	63,383	61,916	62,940	102

¹ Intended plantings in 2005, as indicated by reports from farmers. ² Acres harvested.

Prices Received by Farmers: Tennessee & U.S., March 2005 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Tennessee			United States		
		March	February ¹	March ²	March	February ¹	March ²
		2004	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005

Dollars Per Unit

Field Crops

Winter Wheat	bu.	⁴	⁴	n/a	3.76	3.27	3.44
Corn	bu.	2.93	2.05	2.20	2.75	1.95	2.03
Cotton Lint	lb.	.612	.406	.419 ³ ₄	.616	.390	.422 ³
Tobacco	lb.	2.260	1.875		2.105	1.960	1.990
Soybeans	bu.	9.18	5.49	6.30	9.28	5.42	6.28

Livestock

All beef cattle	cwt.	71.80	80.00	82.40	83.70	89.00	91.90
Steers/heifers	cwt.	91.00	100.00	104.00	88.00	93.30	96.30
Cows	cwt.	43.00	50.00	50.00	46.50	52.40	53.60
Calves	cwt.	109.00	120.00	125.00	115.00	128.00	132.00

¹ Entire month. ² Mid-month. ³ Based on purchases first half of month. ⁴ Insufficient sales to establish price. n/a - not available.

U.S. Hog Inventory: U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2005 was 59.9 million head. This was up 1 percent from March 1, 2004, but down 1 percent from December 1, 2004. Breeding inventory, at 5.94 million head, was down slightly from both March 1, 2004 and last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.0 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The December 2004 - February 2005 U.S. pig crop, at 25.5 million head, was up 2 percent from 2004 and up 4 percent from 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.85 million head, up 1 percent from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.94 for the December 2004 -February 2005 period, compared to 8.85 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

Grain Stocks: Tennessee and U.S., March 1, 2005 with Comparisons

Crop	Tennessee ¹			United States		
	Mar 1, 2004	Dec 1, 2004	Mar 1, 2005	Mar 1, 2004	Dec 1, 2004	Mar 1, 2005
1,000 Bushels						
On-Farm Stocks						
Corn				3,030,000	6,144,000	4,137,000
Wheat				257,890	531,020	304,710
Soybeans				355,900	1,300,000	795,000
Grain Sorghum				21,000	78,700	33,400
Oats				45,600	60,400	43,500
Off-Farm Stocks ²						
Corn	12,862	18,085	11,230	2,241,459	3,306,598	2,616,738
Wheat	4,166	8,283	5,823	762,727	899,306	676,304
Soybeans	2,770	8,051	2,218	549,947	1,004,640	585,974
Grain Sorghum	³	³	³	137,652	203,505	169,989
Oats	199	³	110	49,414	44,513	39,026
Total Stocks						
Corn				5,271,459	9,450,598	6,753,738
Wheat				1,020,617	1,430,326	981,014
Soybeans				905,847	2,304,640	1,380,974
Grain Sorghum				158,652	282,205	203,389
Oats				95,014	104,913	82,526

¹ Estimates for Tennessee on-farm stocks are not published. ² Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors. ³ Data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

U.S. Slaughter: Cattle slaughter totaled 2.34 million head for February 2005, down 4 percent from 2004. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,254 pounds. Calf slaughter totaled 61,900 head, down 13 percent from February 2004. The average live weight was 8 pounds below last year, at 328 pounds. Hog kill totaled 8.10 million head, 3 percent above February 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 270 pounds. Sheep slaughter totaled 215,000 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, up 1 pound from February a year ago.

Livestock Slaughter¹: United States, February 2004 & 2005

Species	Number		Total		Average	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Cattle	2,429	2,341	2,993,963	2,936,554	1,233	1,254
Calves	72	62	24,011	20,291	336	328
Hog	7,887	8,104	2,112,505	2,187,417	268	270
Sheep	213	215	29,601	30,125	139	140

¹ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter (excludes farm slaughter).

Dairy Products Prices: Cheddar Cheese prices received for US 40 pound Blocks averaged \$1.49 per pound for the week ending March 26. The price per pound decreased 2.3 cents from the previous week. The price for US 500 pound Barrels adjusted to 38 percent moisture averaged \$1.46 per pound, down 2.1 cents from the previous week. Butter prices received for 25 kilogram and 68 pound boxes meeting USDA Grade AA standards averaged \$1.56 per pound for the week ending March 26. The U.S. price per pound increased 2.3 cents from the previous week.

Nonfat Dry Milk prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade or USPH Grade A standards averaged 90.9 cents per pound for the week ending March 26. The U.S. price per pound decreased slightly from the previous week. Dry Whey prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade standards averaged 25.7 cents per pound for the week ending March 26. The U.S. price per pound increased 0.7 cents from the previous week.

State Ag Department Holds Exporter Information Sessions for Tennessee Companies

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Tennessee food and agriculture product companies interested in selling their products in other countries are invited to attend information sessions scheduled in Knoxville on April 26 and in Nashville on April 27. The sessions include instruction on cost-share funding and programs available for export marketing and promotion. Conducted in partnership with the Southern United States Trade Association (SUSTA), the sessions target producers and processors of food and agriculture related products.

"Essentially, SUSTA seeks to help interested, qualified companies learn how to double their marketing budgets through federal cost share programs and to effectively market products abroad," says Collin Watters, Tennessee's SUSTA activity manager.

"Foreign markets represent great opportunities for Tennessee's agriculture-based companies to increase their bottom line," says Watters. "Participating in the global marketplace is a challenge, but hundreds of small U.S. businesses have gained exposure in international markets with the help of the USDA and SUSTA."

In order to participate in SUSTA programs, companies must be "small" according to SBA guidelines or be a farm cooperative. Companies also must be able to document total sales exceeding \$100,000, have a product that is at least 50 percent of U.S. agricultural origin and marketed under a brand name. Exported products must also bear a label marked as "Product of the USA" or "Made in the USA."

SUSTA is a non-profit trade association providing services and programs to offset the risks of international marketing. SUSTA cooperates regularly with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to educate companies with food and agriculture-based products about export opportunities. The federally funded organization provides funding support for industry-wide activities and trade missions as well as funding to individual companies through the Market Access Program (MAP). Transaction assistance is also available to facilitate inspection, shipping and promotion of products. In addition to well-established programs in Europe, SUSTA currently develops programs in other global markets.

"At this year's session," says Watters, "companies will learn how to lower export expenses, meet foreign buyers, participate in industry promotions and discover the basics of exporting. They'll also learn how to better navigate the agencies in their own backyards so they can get the most assistance and cooperation possible. We'll have representatives from major chamber organizations on hand, and we'll spend time educating participants about what the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and other state agencies can do to help. We'll cover their programs, staff and year round opportunities for Tennessee's food and agriculture based businesses."

To attend an Exporter Information Session, contact SUSTA Activity Manager Collin Watters at the Tennessee Department of Agriculture at (615) 837-5346 or email to international.marketing@state.tn.us. For more information on this event or other SUSTA programs, visit www.susta.org.

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